carrying the 2 subglobose pollinia; ovary sessile, slender 7 mm long, glabrous, 3-ridged; *fruit* erect, slender, 5 cm long, 3-ridged.

Holotype—*A. S. Rao* 45622 A, between Umran and Umsaw beside the Gauhati-Shillong Road, 23 July 1966 (CAL); Isotypes—*A. S. Rao* 45622 B-D (ASSAM).

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A. SATHYANARAYANA RAO AND J. JOSEPH
Botanical Survey of India, Shillong

NOTES ON SOME NEPAL PLANTS

Ophioglossum nudicaule Linn. f.

This species has previously been known from Assam-Jaintia Hills at 1320 m (4,400 ft)—*Burkill & Banerji*, 10-6-1911; Burma—*R. Romains*, 7-1883; Malaya Peninsula—*L. Wray Jr.* and Bundelkhand —*Vicary*.

My specimen comes from Nagarkot, 1,800 m altit. (ca. 6,000 ft) and was collected in August 1966. This Nepal material completely matches the Bundelkhand material and also the Burma material. Of the sheets in the Central National Herbarium, the sheet from Jaintia Hills has the record of the altitude, thus it will be noticed that there is a great range in the distribution.

Hara in Fl. East. Himal. does not mention the species, thus this is the first record for the species from Nepal.

Helminthostachys zeylanica Hk. f.

Banerji 1758 has been collected from Lothar forest area—approximately N. 27° 65′: E. 84° 65′, at 360 m altit. (1,200 ft) on 17-3-1966. At the time of collection the plants had shed off the sporangia, thus only the bare stalk of the spike was on the plants. The plants were growing on lateritic soil in exposed situations in the mixed forest.

This species is known from Bengal plains to Assam and Cachar, and from Malaya and Ceylon. This gathering from Lothar extends the westwards extension of the species.

Rubus foliolosus D. Don

D. Don described this taxa from Wallich's specimen (*Wall.* 736) which was collected from Nepal, but the precise locality is not known.

A critical study of the recently collected materials from Nepal has been made, and this has brought some interesting points to light. Hooker's description as given in Fl. Brit. Ind. covers a fairly wide range of variations. Also Collett in Fl. Simlensis p. 162, gives "a prostrate variety with 3-7 much smaller leaflets is distinguished in the Fl. Brit. Ind. as *R. foliolosus* Don".

A search in the Central National Herbarium revealed that *Wall.* 736 and *Scully* 8 are placed under *R. foliolosus* D. Don, and also *Inayat* 21302 from Mashobra, 16-5-1897 (Cal. Herb. No. 146721) placed under *R. lasiocarpa* Sm. I am of the opinion that *Inayat* 21302 is also *R. foliolosus* D. Don, and not a 'small leaved variety' of *R. lasiocarpa* Sm.

It may be pertinent to mention that *Banerji* 27, *Banerji* 1952B and *Banerji* s.n. are all from different localities and that the species is rather rare in occurrence. Also it is very necessary to give details of my gatherings from Nepal. They are:

i. *Banerji* 27, Kathmandu Valley, 1,350 m on 1-4-1948.
ii. *Banerji* s.n., Jhangajholi area (app. N. 27° 25′: E. 85°52′), 1,200 m in Feb. 1965.
iii. *Banerji* 1952B, Khanigaon (app. N. 27° 35′: E. 85°25′), 1,650 m on 5-2-1967.

I may mention that *Banerji* 27 is from Kathmandu valley and it is very unlikely that it comes from the same plant wherefrom *Wall.* 736 or *Scully* 8 come.

Rodgersia pinnata Franch.

On 24th July, 1966 a plant was collected (*Banerji* 1825) from Puyan forest, altit. 2,400 m from the sides of a small waterfall. There was dense vegetation and the place was infested by leeches, as it was wet and slushy all over due to the spray of water from the waterfall. Identification of the specimen has given a lot of trouble, but at the end it has yielded much interesting information.

In the Central National Herbarium there are 3 sheets—*Ribu & Rhomo*, 1681, from north of Chakung chu (Sikkim), altit. 3750 m (12,000 ft), 1-11-1910, and one sheet—*Searight* 21, from Dhui Dhara, Chumbi valley Road Survey, 2,700-3,000 m (9,000-

10,000 ft), Dec. 1904. And these sheets are mentioned by Smith [*Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 4(7): 367, 1913] and there is a footnote 'a very interesting discovery as it is the first record of the occurrence of the genus within the Indian area'.

H. M. G. Nepal, Deptt. Med. Pl. Herb No. 5608 was also collected at the same locality where I collected my specimen (*Banerji* 1825). *Stainton* 4619 comes from Chaunri kharka, 2,550 m (8,500 ft) on 11-6-1964, and also *Zimmerman* s.n. is from 'region of Ghate' altit. 2,800 m, 9-5-1952. I have had the chance to study *Stainton* 4619, and find that *Banerji* 1825 is exactly the same as *Stainton* 4619. From the description that Baehni (*Candollea* 16: 220, 1958) has given of *Zimmerman* s.n. I find that all these three specimens from Nepal (*Zimmerman* s.n., *Stainton* 4619 and *Banerji* 1825) are one and the same species. And as to the identity of the species I am of the opinion that it is *pinnata* Franch, although Baehni (*loc. cit.*) has discussed the resemblences of *Zimmerman* s.n. with *R. podophylla* A. Gray, *R. aesculifolia* Bat., *R. pinnata* Franch, and *R. sambucifolia* Hemsl.

I have seen the plant in nature, and I have observed that the leaflets are generally 7-9 in the lower portion of the stem, and in the region of inflorescence the number is generally 3, shape of the leaflets is oblanceolate, the inflorescence is a much branched panicle and the ultimate branches bear flowers in cymes, further the stem is hollow, and the plants are about one metre in height. However Baehni (*loc. cit.*) suggests that *Zimmerman* s.n. may be *podophylla* Gray, but I have a strong feeling that the resemblences with *pinnata* are more than with any other, also the material *Banerji* 1825 matches with *Searight* 21 and *Ribu & Rhomo* 4681, which are however not in a very good state at present.

This, then, further extends westwards the distribution limit of the species in the Himalayas.

Soliva anthemifolia (Juss.) R. Br.

In a previous communication Bhattacharjee (*Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 5: 375, t. i. 1963) has reported on this species as a new record for India occurring in two localities in the northern districts of U. P., also Babu (*Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 8: 201, 1966) has recordded the species from Dehra Dun. This is an introduced species.

There are two sheets of this species in H. M. G. Nepal Deptt. Med. Pl. Herbarium and one sheet in Herb. Banerji, and all these are collected in West Nepal. It appears to me that under all probability the species got introduced by germules that may have come along with some mountaineering party or tourists of which there have been many in recent years visiting Nepal. Once the species got established somewhere in West Nepal, it was able to send down germules that were washed by the rains or by the streams. I express this idea because the locality from which the specimens were collected was by the side of a stream and ideally suited as a camping place. Now the species has undergone 'perfect naturalisation' in localities at Bahraich, near Ramnagar, and at Dehra Dun.

Securidaca inappendiculata Hassk.

Specimens of this species (*Banerji* 1978) have been collected on 16-2-1967 from the banks of Jirga khola on way from Sindhuli Marri to Tinpatan (approx. N. 27°12′: E. 86°07′) at altit. ca. 750 m. It is a woody scandent small tree with very characteristic fruits which are 1-seeded, indehiscent and have a long coriaceous wing at the upper end. There were a few trees in shade and moist place.

The distribution of this species, as it comes to my notice, is in Assam, Chittagong and Burma. Raizada (*Journ. Bomb. nat. Hist. Soc.* 48: 668, 1952) records the species from Orissa also. The collection of the species in East Nepal is of interest as regards its distribution, and it is the first record of the species from Nepal.

M. L. BANERJI
University of Kalyani, Kalyani

THE FERN GENUS *ARACHNIODES* BLUME IN INDIA

Few genera of ferns have perhaps suffered from such great vicissitudes of nomenclatural confusion as the few compound leaves of oriental ferns now recognised as *Arachniodes* Blume. As far back as 1819, Raddi established the genus *Rumohra*, to accommodate a Brazilian fern *R. aspidioides* Bl. It remained a singularly unrecognised and neglected genus for over a century, till Ching (1934) published